COMMUNITY

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Detroit's 2026
Miss Mexico Crowned

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS

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COMMUNITY

Pages 8 and 9 –
"Tres Grandes"
del movimiento muralista
de México

Strangers No Longer eleva voces de fe en un Impulso Estatal para la Protección de los Inmigrantes

Por Odalis Perales Para EL CENTRAL Hispanic News

Strangers No Longer (SNL), una red de fe compuesta por parroquias católicas, escuelas secundarias e instituciones comunitarias, organizó una asamblea de más de 130 miembros y socios de todo el estado. La reunión se llevó a cabo en Lansing el 2 de diciembre, en una poderosa demostración de defensa interreligiosa. Su misión era clara: posicionar a la comunidad de fe como una voz moral central en las conversaciones sobre políticas de inmigración en Michigan y defender la dignidad de las familias inmigrantes en todo el estado. En el espíritu del Adviento y la tradición latinoamericana de las posadas, esta peregrinación interreligiosa por la dignidad humana fue un acto de testimonio público. Se fundamentó en la esperanza de que los funcionarios electos abrieran sus corazones y mentes al mensaje de compasión de la asamblea por el forastero.

El día de acción de SNL se centró en

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Strangers No Longer Elevates Faith Voices in Statewide Push for Immigrant Protections

By Odalis Perales For EL CENTRAL Hispanic News

Students from the Detroit Cristo Rey Circle of Support add their voices to the call for greater protections for immigrants and refugees in Michigan.

Strangers No Longer (SNL), a faith-based network of Catholic parishes, high schools, and community institutions, organized an assembly of more than 130 members and partners from across the state in a powerful demonstration of interfaith advocacy in Lansing on December 2. Their mission was clear: to position the faith community as a central moral voice in Michigan's immigrant policy conversations and to champion the dignity of immigrant families across the state. In the spirit of Advent and the Latin American tradition of posadas, this interfaith pilgrimage for human dignity was an act of public witness grounded in the hope that elected officials would open their hearts and minds to the assembly's message of compassion for the stranger.

SNL's day of action focused on building legislative support for SB 508, 509, and 510—bills that would prevent Immigration and Customs Enforcement

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Immigrant Advocates Press Grand Rapids and Kent County Officials for Sanctuary Policies

Story and photos by Erick Diaz Veliz

Grand Rapids, MI — Nearly one year into Trump's crusade against undocumented immigrants, Grand Rapids and Kent County officials are under pressure from immigrant rights advocates to implement sanctuary policies amid the increase in ICE arrests in the area.

At a Mass for Immigrants at St. Andrew's Cathedral on November 24, Gema Lowe, a Moviemiento Cosecha member, shared Clara's story with hundreds of supporters. "All of this happened and is happening here, in our city, under the actions of ICE, and right before our eyes."

Clara, an immigrant, returned with her five children to Guatemala to be reunited with her deported husband. He was arrested by ICE in September, in front of their kids, on the way to a dental appointment. She received financial and legal support from activist groups.

"Declaring a sanctuary city will make it harder for ICE to do its job," Lowe said. "It doesn't mean ICE won't come; it simply means that if local authorities stand against their presence, their operations will become much more difficult."

Movimiento Cosecha is an immigrant rights advocacy organization led by immigrants, with chapters across the country. Cosecha Michigan has been organizing to defend undocumented immigrant lives through marches and protests. They have been pushing for these policies in Grand Rapids since 2017.

An MLive analysis of the Deportation Data Project's data shows that ICE arrests in counties like Kent, Oakland, and Wayne are at their highest levels in the state since Trump took office. Since then, through July 28th, the DDP's data shows 1,470 people have been arrested this year in Michigan, surpassing the 951 people detained in 2024.

"There is no legal definition of a sanctuary city", said Christine Sauvé, from Michigan Immigrant Rights Center (MIRC), about the term that can be traced back to the mid-1980s, when American churches on the West Coast began providing shelter to Central American refugees fleeing armed conflicts. Sauvé noted that the designation of a place as a sanctuary follows implemented policies and laws to limit cooperation with ICE, and its effectiveness will depend on what local authorities do in practice to protect the community.

"It's important to underscore the separation of powers and duties between the federal government and states and local governments," said Sauvé, pointing out that this separation ensures undocumented members feel safe when reporting crime, which therefore keeps the whole community safe.

Despite the numbers, the term has become controversial for some and a source of hope for others over the years. Following one of the most recent attacks, in August this year, U.S. Attorney General Pamela Bondi stated that sanctuary policies hinder the work of immigration agents and endanger American citizens. Bondi, along with the Department of Justice, indicated that they are working to eradicate these policies.

Gema Lowe, a Cosecha movement member, speaks defending immigrants' rights during the Mass for the Immigrants in Grand Rapids on November 24th.

A shield, the city has no power to provide

Up to now, Grand Rapids Mayor David LaGrand has decided not to adopt a sanctuary city label, a term he described as "a media term with no legal standing." He said it can create "false hope" for those most vulnerable,

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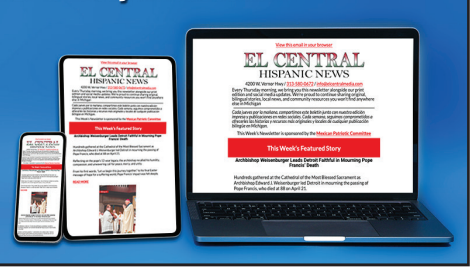

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Immigrant Advocates Press for Sanctuary Policies

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emphasizing that the Foreign Nationals policy from 2019 is already protecting the community.

LaGrand highlighted that it separates local policing and the enforcement of federal civil immigration law. "I am committed to prioritizing actual safety over symbolic labels. Declaring ourselves a 'sanctuary' suggests a shield against federal law that a city has no power to provide or enforce," he clarified.

Cosecha movement members help attendees with immigration rights information.

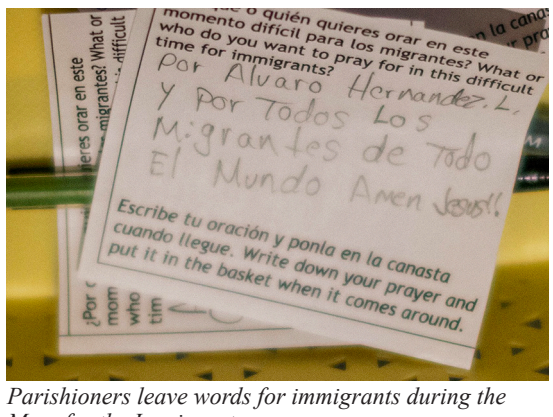
Cosecha claims that the GRPD's 2019 Foreign Nationals policy should be updated and more policies should be added. They point out that the terms "emergency" or "immediate danger" situations that allow collaboration with ICE may follow the racially biased narrative adopted by immigration agents.

For Sauvé, the City's Foreign Nationals policy has a good element that may be considered a sanctuary policy under some definitions. Although jurisdictions cannot stop ICE operations within their boundaries, sanctuary policies also show local governments' prioritization of their resources amid racial profiling by immigration federal agents.

Across Kent County, tension persists. Cosecha and other organizations accuse the sheriff's department of working with ICE on the release of arrested immigrants. This type of collaboration ended in 2019 when the Sheriff's Department terminated its jail contract with ICE after months of pressure from these advocacy groups.

However, in May 2025, a list of sanctuary jurisdictions published by Department of Homeland Security led the sheriff's office to state they haven't been and aren't a sanctuary jurisdiction, and they maintain "consistent" collaboration with ICE and other federal departments.

A prayer during the Mass for the Immigrants.


momento difícil para los migrantes? What or
who do you want to pray for in this difficult
time for immigrants?
Por Alvaro Hernandez. L.
Y Por Todos Los
Migrantes de Todo
El Mundo Amen Jesus!!
Escribe tu oración y ponla en la canasta
cuando llegue. Write down your prayer and
put it in the basket when it comes around.

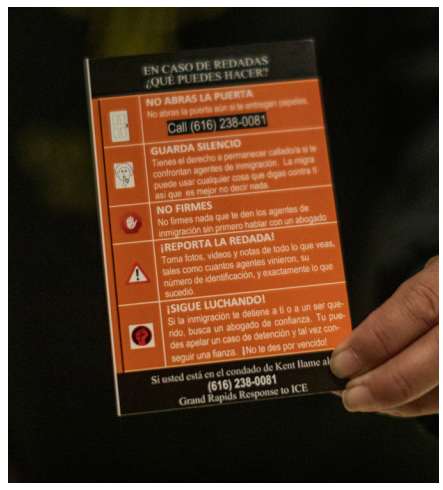
Parishioners leave words for immigrants during the Mass for the Immigrants.

The Kent County Sheriff's Office follows the current policy on ICE holds. Scott Dietrich, the Sheriff's Office spokesperson, said they "will honor ICE detainers for up to 48 hours," a period when ICE must provide court-signed arrest warrants or detainer forms (I-247A and I-200), which have to be approved by the sheriff or deputy in chief.

According to MIRC, both forms, I-247A and I-200, shouldn't be considered mandatory by local law enforcement to prolong detentions, as they aren't judicial warrants. Adopting policies refusing to honor ICE detainers, unless accompanied by a judicial warrant, increases community trust and maintains constitutional rights.

As immigration enforcement concerns persist, local organizers say they will continue pushing for structural protections.

According to Cosecha, the sheriff and police department work "hand in hand" with ICE. Lowe maintains that the sanctuary policies they are asking for are not symbolic. Without a formal sanctuary designation or codified protections, communities remain exposed to informal cooperation, data-sharing practices, ICE holds, and racial profiling.



"What to do" information sheet in case of ICE encounters, provided by Cosecha movement.

Gema Lowe, a Cosecha member, provides information about immigration rights and ICE encounters.

"Cosecha is led by people who are directly affected by immigration laws. As an affected community, we carry those experiences ourselves," Lowe said. "It's the community supporting the community. And with that foundation, we are demanding more sanctuary laws and policies."

Editor's Note: Hyperlinks to many data sources and references in this story can be found at www.elcentralmedia.com.

Erick Diaz Veliz is a Peruvian reporter based in Lansing, Michigan. He has documents and reports on cultural, social, and political issues in Peru and Michigan as a freelancer. Erick was born in Lima, Peru, and has been living in Lansing since 2018.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

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Miss Mexico 2026 Pageant: Honoring Tradition through Apparel

By Estefania Arellano-Bermudez | Photos by Alejandro Ugalde Sandoval

At Saturday's Miss Mexico 2026 Pageant, hosted by the Mexican Patriotic Committee of Metro Detroit, the big winner of the night was Andrea Cuevas-Garcia, 19, who represented the city of Arandas in Jalisco, Mexico. Each contestant represented their state with a traditional dress. Cuevas-Garcia's Ballet Folklorico-inspired brown and gold dress worn for the traditional dress portion was sourced and fitted by Luly Del Real on behalf of her non-profit CasArt Foundation. Cuevas-Garcia took the crown, but it was the dresses that took your breath away.

Andrea Cuevas-García, representing Arandas, Jalisco, competes in the traditional dress portion of the Miss Mexico 2026 pageant in Lincoln Park, Michigan on Saturday, Dec. 6, 2025. Cuevas-García went on to win the crown.

"Each state is a live symbol of cultural identity. For me, each dress represents our values, our customs, and is a source of pride for each region," Del Real said.

When Elizabeth Gonzalez, pageant coach and chairperson of the Miss Mexico committee, asked Del Real to be a judge for the Miss Mexico pageant, Del Real knew she could give each girl more than a simple score. In her mind, the traditional dresses that the girls wore should be truly authentic and tell a story about the place where each girl was from.

Chelsea Morales-Magaña,17, won Miss Congeniality at the event. She knows about compelling stories. When she was younger, she asked her father what he would go to school for if he had been able to pursue an education. His response inspired Morales-Magaña's dream to become a radiation therapist through Wayne State University. For her, this pageant meant a scholarship opportunity, but it was also a way for her to show pride in her identity.

Chelsea Morales-Magaña, representing León, Guanajuato.

With a smile, she points to the various elements of her dress. The frogs dancing along the hem of the dress allude to Guanajato, Mexico which stems from the indigenous Purepecha word "Quanaxhuato," which translates to "place of frogs." The peaks along the dress represented mountain ranges such as Sierra Madre Oriental and Cerro Agustinos.

Del Real told each of the six contestants a story about their traditional dresses. Isabel Vallejo, 19, from La Piedad, Michoacan wore a blue and green dress that was meant to be attention-getting.

"A long time ago, women would come from Spain and turn the heads of the local men. So this dress with the colors, the bows, the mask… it's a way to draw back that attention and show pride in being from Michoacan," Vallejo said. Vallejo attends Wayne State University and is in the Bachelor's program for Applied Health Sciences.

Andrea Cuevas-Garcia, this year's winner, and Ana Yadira Sanchez-Rangel, both hail from Jalisco, yet they wore very different styles.

Ana Yadira Sánchez-Rangel, representing Jalisco.

"There's another girl representing Jalisco as well. So she got the traditional Folklorico dress and I got the charra dress, so we were going to both represent different styles," Sanchez-Rangel, 21, said. Her charra dress is based on attire worn by Mexican horsemen. It features short, embroidered jackets, wide sombreros, silk ties, and boots.

"The charra dress was made by a great Mexican artistano named Charreria Castillo," Del Real said. "The Ballet Folklorico dress was made by a professor who knows about folklore and understands our traditional Mexican dresses. He makes everything with an authentic investigation into what each dress represents."

The most elaborate dress of the night belonged to Perla Garcia, who won last year's Miss Mexico pageant. Del Real designed and hand painted the dress herself.

"The dress represents the Monarch butterfly sanctuaries of Angangueo, Michoacan," Del Real said.

Perla García, Miss Mexico 2025, presents her Monarch butterfly dress.

The Monarch butterfly makes its yearly migration from Canada to Mexico – a 3,000 mile flight south to reach Mexico. The southbound migration is completed by one super generation, while the northward trek is an intergenerational relay. It takes several short-lived generations to reach Canada again. No one butterfly makes the full circle migration – from Canada to Mexico to Canada again. Generations of butterflies rely on each other to complete the full migration cycle.

In short, the dress is a stunning ode to migration.

"It's something so beautiful and I think the Monarch butterfly represents us," Garcia said. "I think it represents freedom."

Perla Garcia passed on the crown to this year's winner, Cuevas-Garcia. Miss Mexico 2026 will receive a $1,000 scholarship as well as the opportunity to represent the pageant at local events such as the Cinco de Mayo parade (also hosted by the Mexican Patriotic Committee of Detroit). She will attend community events and be a part of leadership opportunities as a cultural ambassador.

"Standing alongside so many talented and inspiring Mexican women was truly an honor," said Cuevas-Garcia.

Estefania Arellano-Bermudez is a Latina freelance writer living in metro Detroit. She is a regular contributor to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News and a member of Planet Detroit's Neighborhood Reporting Lab.

This article and photos were made possible thanks to a generous grant to EL CENTRAL Hispanic News by Press Forward, the national movement to strengthen communities by reinvigorating local news. Learn more at www.pressforward.news.

Nayeli Cabrera, representing Nuevo León.

Yeiralexy García, representing Reynosa, Tamaulipas.

Yeiralexy García, representing Reynosa, Tamaulipas, walks the runway during the traditional dress portion.

Ana Yadira Sánchez-Rangel, representing Jalisco.

Isabel Vallejo, representing La Piedad, Michoacán

Nayeli Cabrera, representing Nuevo León, walks the runway during the traditional dress portion.

Andrea Cuevas-García, crowned as Miss Mexico 2026.

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Strangers No Longer eleva voces para la Protección de los Inmigrantes

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generar apoyo legislativo para los proyectos de ley SB 508, 509 y 510. Estos proyectos evitarían que Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) y U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) siembren miedo y crueldad en nuestros barrios. Esto se lograría impidiendo el uso de máscaras faciales, las peticiones sin control de información personal, y las intromisiones en iglesias, escuelas, hospitales y tribunales.

Además de promover estas políticas, SNL buscó elevar las experiencias vividas por los miembros de la comunidad inmigrante, cuyas historias a menudo no son escuchadas por los legisladores. Estas historias resaltaron la necesidad urgente de apoyar la campaña de SNL, Local for Local; este es un esfuerzo estatal para educar a las autoridades locales sobre los daños de los "acuerdos 287g" del Department of Homeland Security. Estos acuerdos son colaboraciones entre las agencias locales del orden público y ICE. La campaña busca formar relaciones constructivas con las autoridades policiales locales y asegurar que sigan siendo responsables de la seguridad de todos los residentes, sin importar su estatus migratorio.

"Queremos que los legisladores escuchen las historias de los inmigrantes, vean su humanidad y su dolor, trabajen para crear políticas que los apoyen, y no que los excluyan o marginen," dijo un líder inmigrante del consejo asesor de inmigrantes de SNL. "Oramos para que tomen decisiones justas y compasivas que protejan los derechos de los migrantes y les brinden oportunidades para salir adelante."

El impacto de la asamblea en Lansing fue inconfundible. 130 miembros de SNL llenaron la galería del Senado, recibiendo reconocimiento formal durante la sesión. Esto mostró una clara unidad entre católicos, luteranos, metodistas, judíos, episcopales y otras tradiciones de fe representadas en la delegación. Los participantes también sostuvieron reuniones formales con 12 Senadores y visitaron cada oficina del Senado y de la Cámara de Representantes. Entregaron materiales y cartas de apoyo de cinco grupos religiosos diferentes, comenzando con el reciente Mensaje Especial de los Obispos Católicos de EE. UU. Esta presencia interreligiosa resaltó un mensaje que SNL ha defendido durante años: las comunidades de fe son socios indispensables en la lucha por una reforma migratoria humana.

El día de defensa culminó con compromisos alentadores. La Senadora Stephanie Chang confirmó a la asamblea interreligiosa que colaborará con SNL para organizar audiencias comunitarias en todo el estado sobre los abusos de derechos civiles relacionados con las actividades de ICE y las colaboraciones entre las autoridades locales y ICE.

Además, los Directores Ejecutivos de Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police y Michigan Sheriffs' Association acordaron reunirse formalmente con SNL a principios de 2026. El propósito es discutir las prácticas policiales y la campaña Local for Local de la organización. La intención de estas reuniones formales es tender puentes con las fuerzas del orden con la esperanza de dar forma a políticas policiales locales más seguras y justas.

SNL enfatiza que el trabajo debe continuar. La organización está instando a todos a seguir sus conversaciones con los Senadores para reiterar la importancia de aprobar los proyectos SB 508–510 y de realizar audiencias comunitarias sobre los abusos de derechos civiles de ICE. SNL también está animando a los miembros de la comunidad a contactar a sus Representantes estatales sobre proyectos de ley relacionados en la Cámara —HB 4760 y HB 4859— que ofrecen protecciones similares.

Los esfuerzos de SNL se basan en una convicción simple pero poderosa: la comunidad de fe tiene la autoridad moral y la responsabilidad de estar al lado de las familias inmigrantes. A través de Círculos de Apoyo establecidos en la parroquia, campañas educativas y defensa estatal, SNL está asegurando que las voces de los inmigrantes sean llevadas adelante con compasión y convicción.

Mientras Michigan debate el futuro de sus políticas relacionadas con los inmigrantes, Strangers No Longer está dejando claro: las comunidades de fe no son observadoras en esta conversación, la están liderando.

Si desea saber más sobre el trabajo de SNL, o si le gustaría iniciar un Círculo de Apoyo en su parroquia, barrio u organización, comuníquese (en español o inglés) con el Director Ejecutivo de SNL, Bill O'Brien, en obrien.b@strangersnolonger.org o con la Gerente de Asociaciones Estratégicas, Odalis Perales, en perales.o@strangersnolonger.org.

SNL advocates stand outside the office of State Sen. Mary Cavanagh, from left, Karen Seefelt, Linda Tomala, Jessica Beamer and Estela Gonzales

SNL assembly gather in the Michigan Senate gallery

SNL advocates meeting with Lansing lawmakers, from left, Jerry Black, Rev. Toby Darrah, Rev. Dr. Dean Aponte-Safe, Rev. Bill Kirsh-Carr, Rev. Dr. Gerardo Aponte-Safe, Beatrice Esquivel,Chris Lynch, Ian Mays, Legislative Director to Sen. Jeremy Moss and Benny Esquivel.

Strangers No Longer Elevates Faith Voices for Immigrant Protections

Cont. from page 1

(ICE) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) from bringing fear and cruelty into our neighborhoods through their use of face masks, unchecked requests of personal information, and intrusions into churches, schools, hospitals and courts.

In addition to advocating for these policies, SNL sought to uplift the lived experiences of immigrant community members whose stories often go unheard by lawmakers. These stories highlighted the urgent need for support of SNL's Local for Local campaign—a statewide effort to educate local law enforcement about the harms of the Department of Homeland Security's "287g agreements. "These are collaborations between local law enforcement agencies and ICE. The campaign aims to form constructive relationships with local police authorities and ensure they remain accountable to the safety of all residents, regardless of immigration status.

"We want legislators to listen to [immigrants'] stories, see their humanity and their pain, work to create policies that support them, and not exclude or marginalize them," said an immigrant leader from SNL's immigrant advisory council. "We pray that they make fair and compassionate decisions that protect the rights of migrants and provide them with opportunities to thrive."

The assembly's impact in Lansing was unmistakable. 130 SNL members filled the Senate gallery, receiving formal recognition during the Senate session— displaying a clear unity from Catholics, Lutherans, Methodists, Jews, Episcopalians, and other faith traditions represented in the delegation. Participants also held formal sit-down meetings with 12 Senators and visited every Senate and House office, delivering materials and letters of support from five different religious groups, starting with the recent Special Message of the US Catholic Bishops. This interfaith presence underscored a message SNL has championed for years: faith communities are indispensable partners in the fight for humane immigration reform.

The advocacy day culminated with encouraging commitments. Senator Stephanie Chang confirmed to the interfaith assembly that she will collaborate with SNL to host community hearings statewide on the civil rights abuses linked to ICE activities and the collaborations between local law enforcement and ICE.

In addition, the Executive Directors of both the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police and the Michigan Sheriffs' Association agreed to meet formally with SNL in early 2026 to discuss policing practices and the organization's Local for Local campaign. The intent of these formal meetings is to build bridges with law enforcement in hopes of shaping safer, more just local policing policies.

SNL emphasizes that the work must continue. The organization is urging everyone to continue their conversations with Senators to reiterate the importance of passing SB 508–510 and of holding community hearings on ICE's civil rights abuses. SNL is also encouraging community members to contact their state Representatives about related House bills—HB 4760 and HB 4859—that offer similar protections.

SNL's efforts are grounded in a simple but powerful conviction: the faith community has the moral authority and responsibility to stand alongside immigrant families. Through parish-based Circles of Support, education campaigns, and statewide advocacy, SNL is ensuring that the voices of immigrants are carried forward with compassion and conviction.

As Michigan debates the future of its immigrant-related policies, Strangers No Longer is making it clear: faith communities are not bystanders in this conversation—they are leading it.

If you would like to learn more about SNL's work, or if you would like to start a Circle of Support in your parish, neighborhood, or organization, please contact SNL's Executive Director, Bill O'Brien, at obrien.b@strangersnolonger.org or Manager of Strategic Partnerships, Odalis Perales, at perales.o@strangersnolonger.org.

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Bank of America Awards $7.3 Million to Metro Detroit Nonprofits

Bank of America celebrated its annual "Day of Giving" on December 2 by connecting more than 100 employee volunteers with the bank's 2025 community nonprofit partners working to support economic opportunity in metro Detroit. The day ended with a grand "GIVE" holiday reception attended by local community and nonprofit leaders, bank employees, clients, and alumni of the Bank of America Student Leaders program, recognizing the significant community impact these organizations have made throughout 2025.

This year, Bank of America Detroit awarded more than $7.3 million to 47 nonprofits through grants, sponsorships, investments, and employee giving. Bank employees also logged over 16,700 volunteer hours to support nonprofit partners in 2025. These hours represent a participation rate of 60% among BofA's Metro Detroit workforce, and support efforts to improve the lives of individuals and families throughout Metro Detroit by investing in health care, job training, emergency shelter, affordable housing, food support, and financial education.

Bank of America's Detroit market leaders also named College Career & Beyond | Midnight Golf Program and Life Remodeled as the 2025 Neighborhood Builders®. One of the nation's largest philanthropic investments into nonprofit leadership development, each Neighborhood Builder organization will receive $200,000 in flexible funding, over two years, plus comprehensive leadership training and access to a national network of nonprofit peers.

From Left: Yaritza Campos, former Bank of America Student Leader; Ed Siaje, president of Bank of America Detroit; Mike Mercer, Merrill Lynch Wealth Management market executive for Farmington Hills; Dina Harris, founder and Chief Executive Officer of National Faith Homebuyers, a 2024 Neighborhood Builder; Renee Fluker, founder and president of College Career & Beyond; Cayla Valentine, director of student success at College Career & Beyond; Star Crawford, Senior Vice President and Market Executive for Bank of America Detroit.

From Left: Dianne Chipps Bailey, National Philanthropic Strategy Executive at Bank of America Private Bank; Maria Serravalle, Community Relations Manager for Bank of America Detroit; Dr. Larry Mann, Senior Vice President and Sales Performance Manager, Michigan Business Banking at Bank of America; Brooke Adams, Philanthropy Director at Life Remodeled; Diallo Smith, President and CEO at Life Remodeled; Veronika Scott, CEO and Founder of Empowerment Plan, a 2024 Neighborhood Builder; Star Crawford, Senior Vice President and Market Executive for Bank of America Detroit; Ed Siaje, President of Bank of America Detroit

Life Remodeled is a Detroit-based nonprofit transforming neighborhoods by repurposing vacant properties into vibrant community hubs. Since 2014, the organization has invested more than $73 million, mobilized nearly 92,903 volunteers, and revitalized more than 2,922 city blocks. Its flagship project, the Durfee Innovation Society, serves as a central hub where dozens of nonprofit partners provide youth programming, workforce development, health services, and academic support to over 25,000 Detroiters annually.

"We are grateful to Bank of America for this strategic partnership," said Diallo Smith, president and CEO, Life Remodeled. "This grant provides critical capital to directly fuel our mission."

College Career & Beyond | Midnight Golf Program, a previous 2016 Neighborhood Builder, is a nonprofit organization that prepares Detroit students for success in post-secondary education and beyond. The program is dedicated to supporting graduation and career success by removing the social, financial, and academic barriers that stand between students and their graduation dreams.

"Being named a Bank of America Neighborhood Builder is an incredible honor said Renee Fluker, founder and president, College Career & Beyond | Midnight Golf Program. "This partnership will help continue building a stronger future for our community."

"At Bank of America, we are committed to driving sustainable economic mobility by supporting organizations that meet Detroiters where they are," said Ed Siaje, president, Bank of America Detroit. "Through partnerships with dozens of local nonprofits, we're helping expand access to health care, affordable housing, workforce development, food security, and financial education, strengthening communities across Metro Detroit. We appreciate the work these organizations put in every day to make a real difference in the lives of Detroiters."

The Day of Giving began with more than 100 bank teammates volunteering for a variety of nonprofit organizations, including Focus: HOPE and SAY Detroit.

Other organizations receiving grants this year include Forgotten Harvest, Food Gatherers, and The Salvation Army, all dedicated to addressing food insecurity

Since 2020, Bank of America has awarded $23 million to fund nonprofit partner initiatives in Metro Detroit, and its employees have spent over 103,000 volunteer hours and $2 million supporting these critical neighborhood partners.

De la oficina del Tesorero del Condado de Wayne,
Eric R. Sabree

PUEDE AYUDARLO CON EL PROCESO DE ASISTENCIA CON SUCESIONES

¿Se enfrenta a una ejecución hipotecaria y necesita ayuda para iniciar un proceso de sucesiones en el Tribunal de Sucesiones del Condado de Wayne porque una propiedad está a nombre de un familiar fallecido?

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Lakeshore Legal Aid: 888-783-8190
LakeshoreLegalAid.org

www.Treasurer.WayneCounty.com
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From Guns to Paintbrushes

How the Mexican Revolution Shaped the Muralism Movement

By Lydia Leija for Mexico News Daily – Reprinted with permission

In every major Mexican city, there's at least one building whose walls burst with color, waiting for you to explore them. But beyond their impressive scale, what truly makes each mural remarkable is the commitment the Muralist movement shared with the Mexican Revolution.

Murals weren't made just for aesthetics; they were a tool in a country where nearly 90% of the population couldn't read or write. Today, those numbers have changed, but the purpose of muralism remains: to showcase historical events whilst expressing the artists' visions of the nation's future.

Even though it's been a while since muralism saw its golden days, these massive pieces of artwork continue to captivate locals and foreigners alike, creating a strong bond between art and national identity. What's portrayed in the murals is meant to be remembered as history — at least, one version of it.

First, let's talk about the Revolution

The Mexican Revolution was a movement that exposed the urgent necessities of a marginalized population, tired of an authoritarian government represented by dictator Porfirio Díaz and his three-decade regime. When the majority of the Mexican population realized that just a few could live a dream life, while the others literally starved, revolutionary ideas started shaping what became an armed movement.

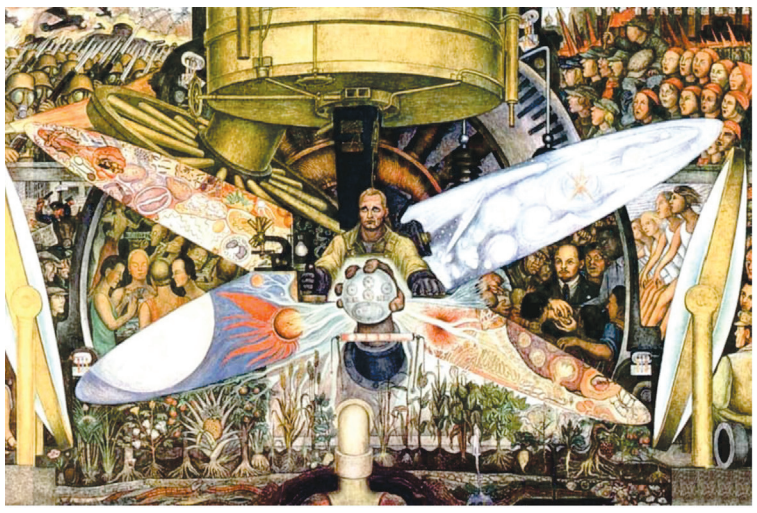
Although the beginning of the confrontation served as a catharsis for the population, the latter part of the war evolved into an internal dispute over who should be in charge once the war ended. And so, the battles were guided more by politics and less by the possibility of a better life.

However, confrontation between those in power and those who worked the land had a specific flavor, as it became the first Revolution of the 20th Century. The Mexican Revolution was also the first led by the working class, which deeply inspired the motifs on which muralism is based.

The Big Three: Siqueiros, Rivera and Orozco

At the same time that Diego Rivera was holding his first solo show after returning from Europe, David Alfaro Siqueiros was on the battlefield, and José Clemente Orozco was in the trenches of Veracruz, listening to revolutionary speeches by Dr. Atl. One thing was certain: the three of them were forging their inner artists to become *Los tres grandes* — the "Big Three."

When visiting the Palacio de Bellas Artes, you'll find yourself surrounded by their creations. But even in that shared space, you won't feel the same standing before Siqueiros' "Tormento de Cuauhtémoc" or Rivera's "El hombre controlador del Universo." And both feelings differ, of course, from the one you get when staring at Orozco's "Katharsis." Siqueiros overwhelms you with intensity, violence and movement; Rivera invites reflection through order, symbolism and balance; Orozco's chaotic energy and cartoonish characters laugh at everything — and everyone.



A portion of Diego Rivera's famous mural "El Hombre Controlador del Universo." (Gumr51/Wikimedia Commons)

Diego Rivera

Even though Rivera presented himself as a revolutionary man, there was a part of him that was a little bit of an outsider. He never really knew what being on the battlefield meant (like Siqueiros and Orozco did). Yet, he had the opportunity to experience art as few artists can: on a scholarship before World War I took its toll on Europe.

Diego tried every technique and met every (or almost every) renowned name of the time. From his long-lasting friendship with Pablo Picasso to his brief but intense marital life with painter Angelina Beloff, he was learning everything he could from the Old World to bring it back home … and so he did.

David Alfaro Siqueiros

Siqueiros' nickname "El Coronelazo" didn't come easy. The muralist left the Academia de San Carlos — the only art academy in Mexico at the time — to join the revolutionary army. As a teenager, Siqueiros was already a soldier, fighting for the causes he believed in —a characteristic that led to his later participation in the Spanish Civil War and the student movement of 1968.

After the war was over, David Alfaro Siqueiros changed the gun for a paintbrush. Besides being one of the founders of the muralist movement, he was also a precursor in experimenting with 3D paintings, introducing the use of pyroxilyn on walls and canvases.

José Clemente Orozco

The connection Orozco had with the Revolution grew as he learned from his teacher, Dr. Atl. During the war, both were part of La Vanguardia, a newspaper that pursued revolutionary causes, like "building the Revolution" through text and pictures.

Orozco recalls Dr. Atl's lessons: "We had to learn from the old masters and from foreigners, but we could do as much, or even more, than they did. Not out of pride, but out of confidence in ourselves, an awareness of our own being and of our destiny."

Unlike his two partners, Orozco's art represented not reality in its most literal form, but a satiric and always critical version of it. As he did at La Vanguardia, the characters of his murals showed their worst traits. That is the main reason he is sometimes left behind. Whereas Siqueiros and Rivera capture the essence of the Revolution, Orozco criticizes the whos and the hows, filling his pieces with discomfort.

There's no trinity without a godfather

To understand muralism, we must return to the moment of its birth. The Mexican Revolution had ended, but the struggle for food, shelter and national identity continued. What did it mean to be Mexican?

With the intention of answering that question, the newly appointed Secretary of Education, José Vasconcelos, created a movement that could do both: create an identity for the re-established nation and produce works of art to show the world what Mexico had to offer. It all began with the buildings under his authority: Escuela Nacional Preparatoria and Secretaría de Educación Pública.

David Alfaro Siqueiros' "Del Porfirismo a la Revolución" explicitly links muralism and revolution. (INEHRM)

It has been said that Escuela Nacional Preparatoria, located in the colonial building that once served as Colegio de San Ildefonso, is the cradle of muralism, and those who say so are not wrong. The halls and corridors that hosted high school alumni also witnessed Dr. Atl's first experiments on muralism, a task interrupted by the Revolution.

Reimagining Mexico's history

Once the war ended in 1922, Vasconcelos hired 35-year-old Diego Rivera to paint "La Creación," inside the school's amphitheater, a symbolic piece that portrays Adam and Eve and the creation of something new. It was related to the beginning of Diego's muralist career, but also with the whole movement — something was about to happen at San Ildefonso and the world would be stunned by it.

This historical place preserves in its walls the works of young muralists such as Jean Charlot, Fernando Leal, Ramón Alva de la Canal and Fermín Revueltas. Orozco was also invited to this muralist assembly, of course. The murals displayed scenes of Mexico's history, from Hernán Cortés to current local celebrations. These paintings depicted every color in the country's light prism.

On the other hand, Diego was also commissioned to design two government buildings: Secretaría de Educación Pública and Palacio Nacional. The first held the national offices of the Ministry of Education, the second was the headquarters of the Mexican presidency. While the murals in both buildings were inspired by social and political events, Secretaría de Educación Pública's (S.E.P.) artwork shows a deeper representation of the ongoing revolutionary process of the country.

Diego Rivera's mural "La Creación." Something new from something old. (Colegio de San Ildefonso)

Rivera shows us what the soldiers were fighting for, trying to share their history with every visitor of the S.E.P. It is no coincidence that in one of the most intense panels, Rivera painted portraits of three artists delivering weapons to the working-class fighters: fellow muralist David Alfaro Siqueiros, photographer Tina Modotti and a young, revolutionary Frida Kahlo, who would later become his life-long partner.

Before and after the 'Big Three'

In contrast to Italian muralism, which reached its peak with Michelangelo's "Sistine Chapel," Mexican muralism stems from something deeper, something rooted in Mesoamerican cultures. Think of the wall paintings at Bonampak or the magnificent frescoes in Teotihuacán. Even the now-bare Templo Mayor was once covered in color during its golden age.

Muralism wasn't created; it was rediscovered, not only in format but in its technique. Muralists moved from European encaustics to the traditional fresco used by Mesoamerican artists for millennia.

As poet Octavio Paz wrote in "Los Privilegios de la Vista," the Revolution created the perfect opportunity to reflect on what the century-old nation had done right and what path it should follow toward the so-called "civilized world."

"Our painting is a chapter of modern art. But at the same time, it is the expression of a people who have just discovered themselves and who, not content with recognizing themselves in their past, seek a historical project that will place them within contemporary civilization."

Although muralism, as the movement led by Rivera, Siqueiros and Orozco, no longer exists, the walls still call for color, and artists continue to answer. From the murals painted along the U.S. border to the marvelous *rótulos* that accompany street vendors, muralism remains. ☐

De las Armas a los Pinceles

Cómo la Revolución Mexicana Moldeó el Muralismo

Por Lydia Leija para Mexico News Daily – Reimpreso con permiso

En muchas ciudades de México, es común encontrar edificios cuyas paredes brillan con enormes murales llenos de color. Más allá de lo llamativos que son, estas obras comparten un origen profundo: nacieron junto con las ideas y las consecuencias de la Revolución Mexicana. Desde el principio, los murales no se hicieron solo para adornar; también servían para enseñar y comunicar en un país donde casi el 90% de la población no sabía leer ni escribir. Aunque el México de hoy es muy distinto, el muralismo sigue teniendo un propósito parecido: mostrar el pasado y, al mismo tiempo, expresar la visión de los artistas sobre el futuro.

A pesar de que ya pasó el momento más famoso del muralismo, estas obras continúan atrayendo a visitantes y residentes por igual. Se han convertido en símbolos de identidad nacional, y lo que muestran está pensado para quedar como una forma de historia, o por lo menos una interpretación de ella.

La Revolución Mexicana y el deseo de cambio

La Revolución Mexicana expuso el cansancio de un pueblo que había soportado más de treinta años del gobierno autoritario de Porfirio Díaz. Mientras unos pocos vivían con abundancia, la mayoría luchaba diariamente contra la pobreza y el hambre. Esa desigualdad alimentó ideas que poco a poco se convirtieron en un levantamiento armado.

Aunque el inicio de la lucha dio esperanza a muchos, las últimas etapas de la guerra se volvieron una pelea interna entre distintos grupos por el control del país. Las batallas se empezaron a guiar más por intereses políticos que por el deseo de mejorar la vida del pueblo. Incluso así, la Revolución fue única: fue el primer movimiento del siglo XX dirigido por trabajadores y campesinos. Esa característica influenció de manera decisiva a los muralistas que vendrían después.

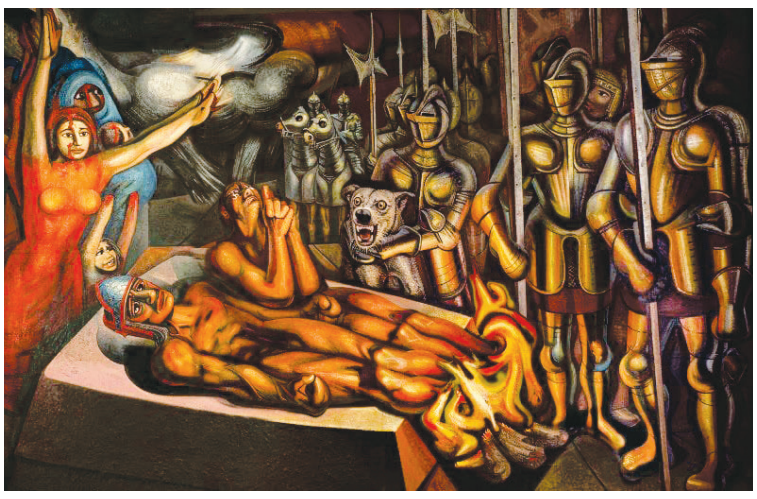
Los Tres Grandes: Rivera, Siqueiros y Orozco

Los "Tres Grandes" del movimiento muralista de México: Siqueiros, Orozco y Rivera. (Colegio de San Ildefonso)

Mientras Diego Rivera regresaba de Europa para mostrar su trabajo por primera vez en México, David Alfaro Siqueiros combatía como soldado y José Clemente Orozco escuchaba los discursos del Dr. Atl desde las trincheras. Cada uno vivió la Revolución de forma distinta, pero los tres terminaron creando un movimiento artístico que cambiaría el país.

En el Palacio de Bellas Artes, donde se encuentran varias de sus obras más conocidas, se notan claramente sus diferencias.

- Siqueiros transmite fuerza, movimiento y tensión.
- Rivera ordena la escena con símbolos, equilibrio y reflexión.
- Orozco observa la realidad con una mirada crítica, a veces dura, a veces satírica.



"Tormento de Cuauhtémoc" de Siqueiros reimagina un famoso episodio de la historia de México desde una perspectiva del siglo XX. (Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes)

Diego Rivera

Rivera hablaba como revolucionario, pero nunca estuvo en el campo de batalla. Su vida en Europa le permitió estudiar muchas técnicas y convivir con artistas como Pablo Picasso. Probó distintos estilos y aprendió de cada uno para luego regresar a México decidido a combinar lo aprendido con las raíces culturales del país.

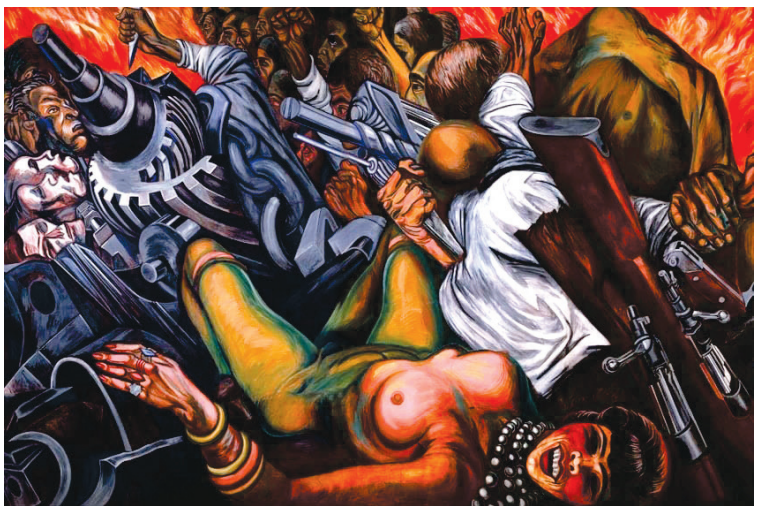
David Alfaro Siqueiros

Siqueiros ganó su apodo, "El Coronelazo", por su tiempo como soldado revolucionario. Dejó la Academia de San Carlos a una edad muy joven para unirse al ejército.

Después también participó en la Guerra Civil Española y en movimientos sociales en México. Una vez que dejó las armas, se convirtió en un innovador del muralismo, usando nuevos materiales como la piroxilina y creando efectos tridimensionales que dieron una sensación de profundidad y energía.

José Clemente Orozco

Orozco se acercó a la Revolución a través del periodismo y el arte, trabajando con el Dr. Atl en el periódico La Vanguardia. Aunque formó parte del movimiento, su obra no idealiza la lucha. En lugar de eso, muestra la violencia, los errores y los conflictos internos. Sus murales tienen un tono crítico que a veces incomoda, pero esa franqueza es lo que define su estilo.



De "Katharsis", el mural aterrador y a la vez satírico de Orozco. (Museo del Palacio de Bellas Artes)

El papel de Vasconcelos en el nacimiento del muralismo

Cuando la guerra terminó, México todavía enfrentaba pobreza, desigualdad y una pregunta difícil: ¿qué significa ser mexicano ahora? El Secretario de Educación, José Vasconcelos, quiso responder con un proyecto cultural que ayudara a reconstruir la identidad nacional. Su idea era simple pero ambiciosa: usar el arte para educar y unir al país.

Los primeros edificios donde se desarrolló este proyecto fueron la Escuela Nacional Preparatoria y la Secretaría de Educación Pública. La Preparatoria, ubicada en el antiguo Colegio de San Ildefonso, se convirtió en el primer laboratorio del muralismo moderno. Ahí se retomaron experimentos que el Dr. Atl había iniciado antes de que la Revolución los interrumpiera.

En 1922, Vasconcelos invitó a Diego Rivera, entonces de 35 años, a pintar La Creación en el anfiteatro de la escuela. La obra, que muestra a Adán, Eva y una serie de figuras simbólicas, marcó el inicio oficial de la carrera muralista de Rivera y anticipó el rumbo que tomaría el movimiento entero.

El edificio también conserva obras de jóvenes muralistas como Jean Charlot, Fernando Leal, Ramón Alva de la Canal y Fermín Revueltas. Sus murales representan distintos momentos de la historia mexicana, desde la llegada de los españoles hasta escenas de la vida cotidiana. En conjunto, muestran la diversidad cultural del país.

Los proyectos de Rivera en la S.E.P. y Palacio Nacional

Además de San Ildefonso, Rivera fue asignado a pintar en dos espacios fundamentales: la Secretaría de Educación Pública y el Palacio Nacional. Ambos conjuntos murales retratan eventos sociales y políticos, pero los de la S.E.P. profundizan más en el proceso revolucionario.

En esos muros, Rivera buscó mostrar por qué lucharon los trabajadores. En uno de los paneles más intensos, pintó a Siqueiros, a la fotógrafa Tina Modotti y a una joven Frida Kahlo entregando armas a los obreros. La escena representa la unión entre arte, política y justicia social.

Un legado más antiguo que Los Tres Grandes

Aunque el muralismo mexicano se volvió famoso en el siglo XX, sus raíces vienen de mucho antes. Las culturas mesoamericanas ya pintaban murales impresionantes en lugares como Bonampak y Teotihuacán. Hasta el Templo Mayor estuvo cubierto de color en su época.

Por eso, el muralismo moderno no inventó la tradición: la redescubrió. Los artistas retomaron técnicas antiguas, como el fresco, y las adaptaron a un tiempo lleno de cambios, tensiones y nuevas ideas sobre quiénes éramos como nación.

El escritor Octavio Paz señaló que la Revolución abrió una oportunidad para que México se viera a sí mismo con claridad: un país que buscaba su lugar en el mundo mientras exploraba su pasado y su futuro.

Un movimiento que continúa

Aunque el movimiento encabezado por Rivera, Siqueiros y Orozco ya terminó, su espíritu sigue vivo. Las paredes de México todavía piden color, y los artistas continúan respondiendo. Desde murales en la frontera norte hasta los rótulos pintados a mano en los mercados, el muralismo sigue contando historias. Evoluciona, cambia y se adapta, pero no desaparece. □

Un mural antiguo de un artista en Teotihuacán. (Adrian Hernandez/Wikimedia Commons)

Nota del Editor: Esta traducción fue adaptada para hacerla más breve. Puede encontrar la versión completa en español en www.elcentralmedia.com.

Lydia Leija es lingüista, periodista y narradora visual. Ha dirigido tres largometrajes y su trabajo audiovisual ha sido presentado en medios nacionales e internacionales. Ha formado parte de National Geographic, Muy Interesante y Cosmopolitan.

Lions Defeat Cowboys

EL CENTRAL
HISPANIC NEWS
SPORTS
Sports Editor: Dan Graschuck/ EL CENTRAL

Photos by Adam J. Dewey

The Detroit Lions (8-5) defeated the Dallas Cowboys (6-6-1), 44 - 30.

The Detroit Lions go on the road to take on the Los Angeles Rams, on Sunday, December 14th at 8:15 pm (FOX), then come back home to Ford Field for their final home game of the regular season, hosting the Pittsburgh Steelers, on Sunday, December 21st at 4:25 pm (CBS), then go on the road for their final two games of the regular season, traveling to the Minnesota Vikings, on Christmas Day, Thursday, December 25th, at 4:30 pm (NETFLIX) and the Chicago Bears (Date and Time to be decided).

Photos are from Lions vs. Cowboys game

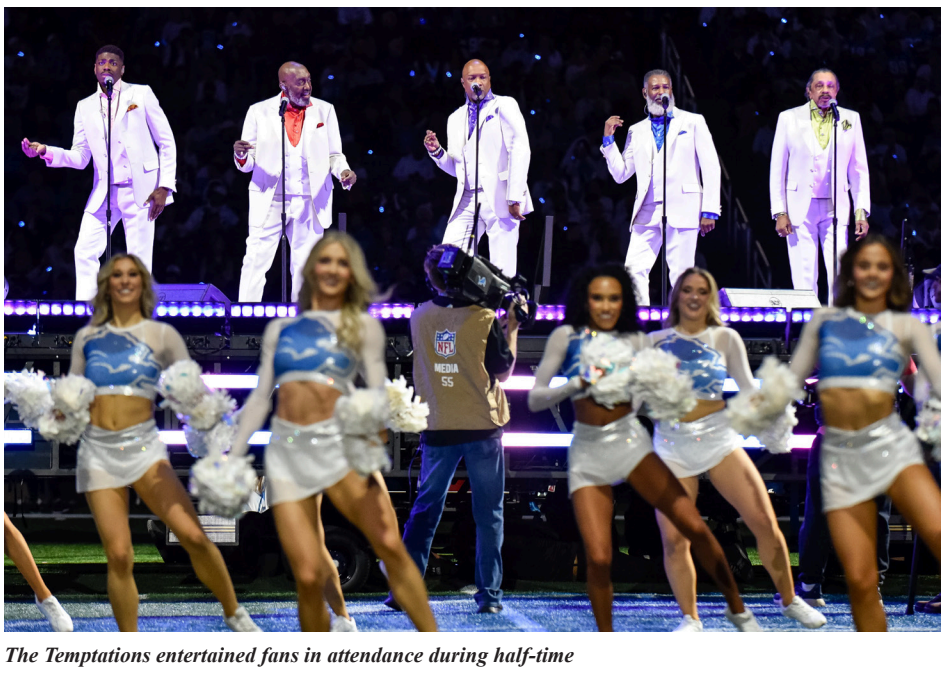
Jack Campbell (#46) sacks Dak Prescott (#4) in the end zone. Which was called a safety intitially, but was overturned and ruled a sack at the half yard line.

Brian Branch (#32) dives on a Jake Ferguson (#87) fumble

Isaac TeSlaa (#18) celebrates his touchdown reception with Jameson Williams (#1)

Jahmyr Gibbs (#0) powers his way into the end zone for one of his three touchdowns on the day

Amon-Ra St. Brown (#14) throws a stiff arm on a first down catch



The Temptations entertained fans in attendance during half-time

EL CENTRAL HISPANIC NEWS
Pateando la No. 5
SPORTS

Hosts Learn World Cup Opponents

David Levine
EL CENTRAL

After a drawn out ceremony that tested the patience of a global audience, FIFA eventually conducted the much-anticipated draw for the first ever 48-team World Cup. The large number of participants, spread out over 12 groups of four for the first round, meant that there will be few blockbuster group matches. For the hosts, which will be the focus in this issue, it meant largely avoiding the big powers.

The United States, which will host the majority of the games, will have perhaps its most favorable draw ever. First, basketball legend Shaquille O'Neal pulled Australia out of Pot 2. Mauricio Pochettino's team dispatched the Socceroos 2-1 in October without being at full strength. When the two teams meet in Seattle on June 19, the stakes will be much higher. Sounders fans typically make Lumen Field the loudest venue in MLS. The national team will be hoping for the same level of support.

If US fans weren't sufficiently pleased with drawing Australia, they really gave a sigh of relief when Paraguay joined the group next. It could have been Norway with Erling Haaland or Egypt led by Mohammed Salah. And, much like Australia, the US already has experience against Paraguay, having defeated them 2-1 during the November international window. Those results should give the Americans confidence, but not arrogance.

The Americans' third opponent will be the winner of a European playoff pool that includes Turkiye, Romania, Slovakia, and Kosovo. The USA lost to Turkiye last June 2-1, but played reasonably well just ahead of the CONCACAF Gold Cup. The Turks do have some star quality in Real Madrid's Arda Guler and Juventus' Kenan Yildiz, but in one-off playoff games results are not guaranteed. Overall, the group is manageable. The US has to expect to win this group at home. They will open group play on June 12 against Paraguay at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, and finish group play there on June 25 against the European team.

Mexico is hosting the World Cup for the third time. No other country has hosted more. While the Mexicans did win the Gold Cup over the USA last summer, they have not had happy times since. In November, they failed to beat either Paraguay or Uruguay. Coach Javier Aguirre will appreciate playing two group matches in the Azteca. It won't be the altitude that bothers his team, but the pressure as hosts. The local fans will be expecting entertaining and winning football.

Much like the US, Mexico dodged the big powers. They will open in the Azteca against South Africa. It is the reverse fixture of the game that open the 2010 World Cup. In a strange coincidence, this will also be the first kickoff on June 11. Hosting the opening ceremonies in the Azteca will give Mexico a distinct advantage. Even given their less than inspiring play during the fall, this will have to be a big performance in front of a global audience.

Like the US, Mexico will change venues for the middle game of group play. South Korea won't mind meeting Mexico somewhere other than the Azteca. The Estadio Akron in Guadalajara will welcome the hosts on June 18 against star forward Son Heung-Min and South Korea. Then, Mexico will return to its spiritual home to finish up against a European opponent. Ukraine, Sweden, Poland, and Albania will battle it out in March to join Mexico's group.

The lowest ranked host country is Canada. They also have the longest travel of the three hosts during the group phase. They have to go from Toronto, where they will open against a European playoff winner, to Vancouver where they will play their last two group matches. The Canadians have been to the World Cup twice and lost all six matches. They will be hoping to change that this summer.

However, their path has the potential to become extremely difficult. Their potential opening game on June 12 could be against Italy. The four-time winners are in the playoffs with Northern Ireland, Wales, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. The Italians have failed to qualify for the last two World Cups. Failing again is almost unthinkable, especially when a game in Toronto to start would be close to a home match given the large Italian population there.

Jesse Marsch will have his work cut out for him no matter which team comes through the playoffs. Upon moving out to Vancouver for the last two group games, Canada will meet Qatar. The 2022 hosts exited in the group phase, which only South Africa had done previously. They will be motivated to give Canada the same pain. That game will be a must win for the Canadians, because they will meet Switzerland in the group finale.

Now that the groups have been drawn, the real work starts for the managers. They now have about six months to develop a plan for each group phase opponent, as well as trim their selections down to 26 players with a few emergency players in reserve in case of an injury prior to the first group match. Most national teams will not have a chance to get together until March, but the African Cup of Nations starting on December 21 will give the African teams an intense competitive environment only few months before the World Cup. Teams who have drawn Africa sides in the group phase will be sure to send their scouts to Morocco to see what they will be up against.

The host nations will gather their national teams in March. The USA and Mexico will face Belgium and Portugal. The USA will host both teams, top seeds like themselves, in Atlanta's Mercedes Benz Stadium, a World Cup venue. Mexico will welcome Portugal to the Azteca and then travel to Chicago for their meeting with Belgium. Canada has yet to announce any friendly games for the March window.

The US has announced they will have two games during their pre-World Cup camp at the end of May and into early June. There will be a game in Charlotte, North Carolina on May 31 with an opponent to be determined and a send-off game at Chicago's Soldier Field against Germany on June 6. Then, it will be time for the real thing. The next six months will be equally slow due to the anticipation and fast because June 11 will be here before we know it. The biggest World Cup ever staged will attract a massive audience, those who can afford the eye-watering ticket prices and the vast majority who will be glued to screens around the world at all hours to see which country claims the sport's biggest prize.

Upcoming Boxing Events

Nominations Encouraged for Michigan Lottery's Excellence in Education Awards to Honor Outstanding Educators

Parents, students, school staff members, and others are encouraged to nominate outstanding public-school educators for the Michigan Lottery's 2025-26 Excellence In Education awards.

All public-school employees may be nominated for the Excellence In Education awards, which recognize educators who go "above and beyond" to make a difference in the lives of children. To nominate a public-school educator, go to https://www.michiganlottery.com/excellence-in-education.

"The Excellence in Education awards are our way of honoring the phenomenal work being done by educators in communities throughout Michigan," said Lottery Commissioner Suzanna Shkreli. "These dedicated professionals do so much more than teach; they are a constant, supportive presence who instill lifelong skills and inspire students to believe in themselves."

The Michigan Lottery established the Excellence in Education awards in 2014 to recognize outstanding public-school educators across the state during the school year.

One outstanding educator will be selected each week and will receive a $2,000 cash prize. At the end of the school year, one of these weekly award winners will be selected to receive the Lottery's Educator of the Year award and will receive a $10,000 cash prize.

Winners of the weekly award are featured in a news segment on the Lottery's media partner stations: WXYZ-TV in Detroit, FOX 17 in Grand Rapids, FOX 47 in Lansing, WNEM-TV in Saginaw, WWTV-TV in Traverse City, and WLUC-TV in Marquette.

The winner of the 2025 Educator of the Year award was Kelly Herberholz, a science teacher and administrative intern with Dakota High School in Macomb.

Hundreds of educators were nominated during the 2024-25 school year, which was the 11th year of the Excellence in Education awards program. Thirty-four of these nominees, including Herberholz, were selected to win a weekly award.

Previous winners of the Educator of the Year award:

2024 – Samantha TwoCrow, the director of the Indigenous Education Program for Suttons Bay Public Schools in Suttons Bay.

2023 – Kathryn Kluzak, a kindergarten teacher with Robert L. Green Elementary in East Lansing.

2022 – Spencer Vanderheide, a high school teacher with Kenowa Hills High School in Grand Rapids.

2021 – Janice Smith, a school social worker at Fisher Magnet Lower Academy in Detroit.

2020 – Megan Sidge, an Autism Spectrum Disorder teacher at Hickory Woods Elementary in Walled Lake.

2019 – Stewart Kieliszewski, an Earth science, biology, mechatronics, and media teacher for eighth through 12 graders at the Ubly Community Schools.

2018 – Kerri Moccio, a first-grade literacy intervention specialist at Bedford Elementary School in Dearborn Heights.

2017 – Linda Holzwarth, a social studies teacher at Portage West Middle School in Portage.

2016 – Daniel Carr, a Spanish and sports marketing teacher at Waverly High School in Lansing.

2015 – Michael Craig, a special education teacher at the Charles Drew Transition Center in Detroit.

Excellence In Education award nominees should demonstrate the following qualities:

- Excellence – Their work consistently helps students and/or their schools or school districts advance to higher levels of academic achievement.
- Dedication – They consistently go above and beyond expectations to help students succeed.
- Inspiration – Their work inspires others around them to exceed expectations either academically or professionally.
- Leadership – They demonstrate clear leadership skills in their positions with their school or school districts.
- Effectiveness – The nominee's work has clear and positive results on the educational advancement of students within the school or school district.

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EDITORIAL OPINION

Guest Opinion:

What Democrats Must Pledge to America
Ten ways to make America more affordable

By Robert Reich

Trump's economy is truly [horrible] for most Americans. Every time Trump or his lapdogs in Congress tell voters that the economy is terrific, they seem more out of touch.

A significant number of Democrats have won elections over the last 10 months — mayoral, gubernatorial, and special elections — by stressing affordability.

Democrats can show America that they can be better trusted than Republicans to bring prices down and real wages up by promising 10 things.

The Democrats' Pledge to Make America Affordable Again

1. We'll eliminate Trump's across-the-board tariffs. They're import taxes that are raising the prices of just about everything American consumers buy. We'll eliminate them where their costs to consumers are far higher than any potential benefits in the form of new jobs.

2. We'll bust up monopolies. Another major source of high prices is monopolies — especially in high tech, health care, food, and finance. We'll vigorously enforce antitrust (anti-monopoly) laws so that corporations don't have the power to raise prices. We'll bust up giant corporations. We'll bar large firms from merging or acquiring other firms.

3. We'll fight for stronger unions. Workers need more bargaining power to get higher wages. Part of the answer is stronger unions. Democrats will make it easier for them to start or join them.

4. We'll raise the national minimum wage to $20 an hour. No one who works full-time should be in poverty. And we'll raise it even higher for employees of big corporations that pay their top executives more than 200 times the typical worker.

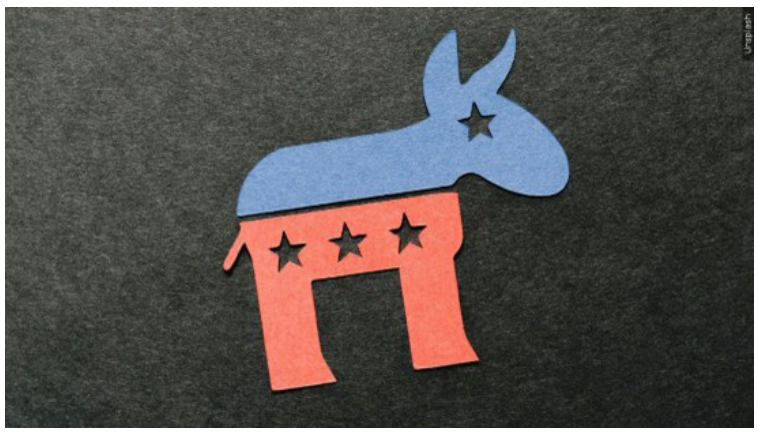
5. We'll make housing more affordable. We'll stop private equity firms from buying up large tracts of housing and colluding on prices. We'll get rid of zoning laws that keep housing prices high. And we'll raise taxes on big corporations that drive up housing prices where they're headquartered or have major facilities and use the funds for more affordable housing there.

6. We'll cut health care costs by making Medicare available to everyone. Giving everyone the option of buying into Medicare would bring health care costs down because it's cheaper and more efficient than private for-profit health insurance.

7. We'll get working families help with childcare and elder care. Both are essential for working families who must now pay out large portions of their incomes to provide care for family members.

8. We'll give working families paid family leave. Twelve weeks of unpaid leave has proven useful but not adequate. Every other advanced country provides paid leave; the richest country in the world should too.

9. We'll provide a universal basic income if adequate-paying jobs are unavailable. Face it: Artificial Intelligence will permanently replace many jobs. No family should be left in the cold. The universal basic income won't be so high as to make families comfortable, but it will be enough to keep them out of poverty.



10. We'll raise taxes on the wealthiest to pay for this. Since Reagan, the rich have paid far lower taxes while accumulating a near-record portion of total income and wealth. It's only fair that they pay more so that the rest of America can afford what Americans need. We'll raise the top marginal tax rate to 70 percent — what it was before Reagan. We'll also impose a 0.5 percent tax on wealth in excess of $100 million. We'll also eliminate the cap on income subject to Social Security taxes, require that the ultra-rich pay annual capital gains taxes on unrealized income, and eliminate the stepped-up basis at death.

These 10 steps are crucial for making America affordable again. We pledge to back every one of them. Please share this with any Democrat interested in running for or remaining in office. And ask them to make the pledge.

Opinions in this column are not necessarily those of the Publisher or Editor

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Opinión de un Invitado:

Lo que los demócratas deben prometer a Estados Unidos
Diez maneras de hacer que Estados Unidos sea más asequible

Por Robert Reich

La economía de Trump es realmente [horrible] para la mayoría de los estadounidenses. Cada vez que Trump o sus lacayos en el Congreso les dicen a los votantes que la economía es estupenda, parecen estar más desconectados de la realidad.

Un número significativo de demócratas ha ganado elecciones en los últimos 10 meses (alcaldías, gobernadores y elecciones especiales) haciendo hincapié en la asequibilidad.

Los demócratas pueden demostrar a Estados Unidos que se puede confiar más en ellos que en los republicanos para bajar los precios y subir los salarios reales prometiendo 10 cosas.

La promesa de los demócratas de hacer que Estados Unidos vuelva a ser asequible

1. Eliminaremos los aranceles generalizados de Trump. Son impuestos a las importaciones que están aumentando los precios de casi todo lo que compran los consumidores estadounidenses. Los eliminaremos cuando sus costos para los consumidores sean mucho mayores que cualquier beneficio potencial en forma de nuevos empleos.

2. Acabaremos con los monopolios. Otra fuente importante de precios altos son los monopolios, especialmente en alta tecnología, atención médica, alimentos y finanzas. Aplicaremos rigurosamente las leyes antimonopolio para que las corporaciones no tengan el poder de subir los precios. Desmantelaremos las grandes corporaciones. Prohibiremos que las grandes empresas se fusionen o adquieran otras.

3. Lucharemos por sindicatos más fuertes. Los trabajadores necesitan más poder de negociación para obtener salarios más altos. Parte de la respuesta es contar con sindicatos más fuertes. Los demócratas facilitarán su creación o afiliación a ellos.

4. Aumentaremos el salario mínimo nacional a 20 dólares la hora. Nadie que trabaje a tiempo completo debería vivir en la pobreza. Y lo aumentaremos aún más para los empleados de las grandes corporaciones que pagan a sus altos ejecutivos más de 200 veces el salario promedio de un trabajador.

5. Haremos que la vivienda sea más asequible. Impediremos que las firmas de capital privado compren grandes extensiones de vivienda y coludan sobre los precios. Eliminaremos las leyes de zonificación que mantienen altos los precios de la vivienda. Y subiremos los impuestos a las grandes corporaciones que encarecen las viviendas donde tienen su sede o cuentan con importantes instalaciones, y destinaremos los fondos a viviendas más asequibles allí.

6. Reduciremos los costos de la atención médica poniendo Medicare a disposición de todos. Dar a todos la opción de adquirir Medicare reduciría los costos de la atención médica porque es más económico y eficiente que los seguros médicos privados con fines de lucro.

7. Ayudaremos a las familias trabajadoras con el cuidado de niños y ancianos. Ambos son esenciales para las familias trabajadoras que ahora deben destinar gran parte de sus ingresos al cuidado de sus familiares.

8. Daremos a las familias trabajadoras licencia familiar remunerada. Doce semanas de licencia sin sueldo han demostrado ser útiles, pero no suficientes. Todos los demás países avanzados ofrecen licencia remunerada; el país más rico del mundo también debería hacerlo.

9. Proporcionaremos una renta básica universal si no hay empleos adecuadamente remunerados disponibles. Aceptémoslo: la inteligencia artificial reemplazará permanentemente muchos empleos. Ninguna familia debería quedar excluida. La renta básica universal no será lo suficientemente alta como para que las familias estén cómodas, pero será suficiente para evitar que caigan en la pobreza.

10. Aumentaremos los impuestos a los más ricos para financiar esto. Desde la era Reagan, los ricos han pagado impuestos mucho más bajos, acumulando una porción casi récord de sus ingresos y patrimonio totales. Es justo que paguen más para que el resto de Estados Unidos pueda permitirse lo que los estadounidenses necesitan. Aumentaremos el tipo impositivo marginal máximo al 70 %, el mismo que era antes de Reagan. También impondremos un impuesto del 0,5 % sobre el patrimonio que supere los 100 millones de dólares. También eliminaremos el límite a los ingresos sujetos a impuestos de la Seguridad Social, exigiremos que los ultrarricos paguen impuestos anuales sobre las ganancias de capital sobre los ingresos no realizados y eliminaremos la base imponible escalonada al fallecer.

Estos 10 pasos son cruciales para que Estados Unidos vuelva a ser asequible. Nos comprometemos a respaldarlos todos. Por favor, compartan esto con cualquier demócrata interesado en postularse o permanecer en el cargo. Y pídanles que se comprometan.

Las opiniones expresadas en esta columna no son necesariamente las del editor o redactor

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SPECIAL WORLD'S CULTURES
International Book Fair of Guadalajara, Mexico

International Book Fair of Guadalajara, Mexico

Foto: Juan Manuel Mendoza Briseño

Foto: Juan Manuel Mendoza Briseño

The Internation Book Fair of Guadalajara begins, bringing with it multitudes of people to the lavish celebration of words, books, knowledge, and cultural expressions. From November 29th to December 7th, one of the most important events in the city of Guadalajara took place: the Guadalajara International Book Fair (FIL), with Barcelona as Guest of Honor at its 39th edition (thirty-ninth). The Guadalajara International Book Fair is the most important book fair in the Spanish-speaking world and the second most important in the world.

This year, it offered to its more than 950,000 attendees: 9 nights of concerts and 9 days of conferences, lectures, congress on Language, Literature, Science, Thought, and the Arts, along with a vast number of book presentations that were held not only in the halls but also at the stands. The aisles of the Book Fair were filled with books by editors, writers, and thinkers—everything that the printed word inspires to be written and published.

Foto: Juan Manuel Mendoza Briseño

Foto: Juan Manuel Mendoza Briseño

The venue hosted nearly 3,000 publishers representing at least 64 countries and their respective languages, enriching both the Book Fair and the streets of Guadalajara. The FIL (Guadalajara International Book Fair) has a star-like effect, around which the entire city revolves for the nine days it takes place. Special bus routes are provided to facilitate transportation from three different points: the Juan José Arreola Library, Revolución Park, and the Via Viva shopping center parking lot with its IKEA store, heading towards Expo Guadalajara.

The press conferences gave a platform to voices from diverse areas of expertise and interests, such as Elena Fort i Cisneros, vice president and spokesperson for FC Barcelona, better known as Barça, who mentioned that the rivalry between the two giants of Spanish football has political and historical implications, stating: "Real Madrid represents Power, while Barça represents freedom." Later, the press room welcomed Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, who shared that her visit to Mexico helped her recognize a lot about herself: "The first time I came to Mexico, I brought with me all this package of cultural negativity about Mexico and Mexicans. Then I arrived in Mexico, saw Mexicans, and felt ashamed of myself—that shame which is an opportunity to learn." She added that one must learn from the problems we face and be resilient, refusing to be silent and accept silence, because if rulers forbid saying certain things, one must say them in songs and literature: "The answer to totalitarianism is to speak out." She also addressed the opacity that has been imposed on women in the Western world, mentioning that she found it regrettable that upon arriving in the Western world, women who showed an interest in fashion and beauty were not taken seriously as intelligent women. Therefore, she not only questions herself but also the audience, inviting them to reclaim color and find inspiration in nature, in birds.

Foto: Juan Manuel Mendoza Briseño

Foto: Juan Manuel Mendoza Briseño

We could write reviews of all the book presentations and press conferences that took place and end up with an entire book; however, we will only mention those in which EL CENTRAL was present.

During the presentation of his book, "Why Do We Die?" (published by Grano de Sal), the author, 2009 Nobel Prize laureate in Chemistry, Venki Ramakrishnan, commented that his book answers a huge existential question, since perhaps we are the only species that is aware of its own death, and that all religions have a way of addressing it. However, one of the main objectives was to disseminate science and guide the reader to avoid buying products that do not really have scientific backing for prolonging life.

On the other hand, among those who attracted the largest audiences were: Richard Geere, Joan Manuel Serrat, Gael García Bernal, Noemí Casquet, and we could mention several others for whom it was even necessary to open the retractable walls of the adjoining rooms. Well, the FIL (Guadalajara International Book Fair) is over, leaving us with the hope that it will bring the splendor of Italy next year.

Mariana Ayón RV and Gerardo Velázquez Carmona

Foto: Juan Manuel Mendoza Briseño

Sigue cada semana en
EL CENTRAL Hispanic News
ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO,
by Mariana Ayón RV

ESPECIAL CULTURAS DEL MUNDO
Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara, México

Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara, México

Foto: Juan Manuel Mendoza Briseño

Foto: Juan Manuel Mendoza Briseño

La feria de los libros empieza y trae consigo a multitudes de personas a la fastuosa fiesta de palabras, libros, conocimientos y manifestaciones culturales. Del 29 de noviembre al 7 de diciembre se llevó a cabo uno de los eventos más importantes de la ciudad de Guadalajara, la Feria Internacional del Libro, FIL, con Barcelona como invitada de Honor en su 39° edición, trigésima novena, cuantos más aniversarios, más difícil es pronunciarlo correctamente. La Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara, es la feria del libro más importante del mundo hispano y la segunda más importante del mundo.

Este año trajo para sus más de 950,000 asistentes: 9 noches de conciertos y 9 días en los que se dieron conferencias magistrales, encuentros de Lengua, Literatura, Ciencia, Pensamiento, Artes, aunada a una vasta cantidad de presentaciones de libros que no fueron sólo albergadas en los salones, sino también en los Stands. En los pasillos de la Feria del Libro anduvieron tanto editores y escritores como pensadores, todo aquello que la palabra impresa guíe.

Foto: Juan Manuel Mendoza Briseño

Foto: Arturo Campos Cedillo

El recinto recibió cerca de 3,000 editoriales que representaron al menos 64 países con su respectiva cantidad de idiomas que enriquecieron tanto a la Feria como a las calles de Guadalajara, donde la FIL tiene un efecto de estrella alrededor del que gira toda la ciudad durante 9 días en que se lleva a cabo; tomando en cuenta que se hacen rutas de autobuses especiales para cubrir traslados que parten desde tres diferentes puntos: la Biblioteca Juan José Arreola, el Parque Revolución y el Estacionamiento de la plaza Via Viva con su tienda IKEA rumbo a la Expo Guadalajara para facilitar a los visitantes el desplazamiento.

Las conferencias de prensa dieron espacio a voces de diferentes expertices e intereses, como Elena Fort i Cisneros, vicepresidenta y portavoz del Club de Futbol Soccer Barcelona, más conocido como el Barça, quien mencionó que la rivalidad entre los dos gigantes clubes de fútbol español son las implicaciones políticas e históricas que tienen, pues: "el Real Madrid representa Poder, mientras que el Barça representa libertad".

Más tarde, la sala de prensa recibió a Chimamamanda Ngozi Adichie, quien compartió que su visita a México le ayudó a reconocer mucho sobre sí misma: "la primera vez que vine a México traía todo ese paquete de negatividad cultural sobre México y los mexicanos, luego

Foto: Juan Manuel Mendoza Briseño

llegué a México, vi a los mexicanos y sentí vergüenza de mí misma, esa vergüenza que es una oportunidad para aprender", mas, uno debe aprender de los problemas que tenemos y ser resilientes, negarse a estar en silencio y a aceptar el silencio, pues si los gobernantes prohiben decir ciertas cosas, uno debe decirlas en canciones y literatura: "la respuesta al totalitarismo es hablar". Asimismo, dio espacio sobre la opacidad que se le ha dado a las mujeres en el mundo occidental, mencionando que le pareció lamentable que al llegar al mundo occidental las mujeres que mostraran interés en la moda y la belleza no eran tomadas en serio como mujeres inteligentes, de manera que ella no sólo se cuestiona a sí misma, sino a la audiencia en una invitación a recuperar el color, inspirarse en la naturaleza, en las aves.

Nos podríamos ir haciendo reseñas de todas las presentaciones de libros y ruedas de prensa que se llevaron

Foto: Juan Manuel Mendoza Briseño

a cabo y terminaríamos con un libro entero, no obstante, mencionaremos sólo aquellas en que EL CENTRAL estuvo presente.

Durante la presentación de su libro: ¿Por qué nos morimos? De la editorial Grano de Sal, el autor, Premio Nobel de Química 2009, Venki Ramakrishnan comentó que su libro responde a una pregunta existencial enorme, pues a lo mejor somos la única especie que está consciente de su propia muerte, así como que todas las religiones tienen una manera de abordarla. No obstante, uno de los principales objetivos fue para difundir la ciencia y orientar al lector para que evité comprar productos que realmente no tienen sustento científico para alargar la vida.

Por otro lado, entre quienes más atrajeron audiencia, fueron: Richard Geere, Joan Manuel Serrat, Gael García Bernal, Noemí Casquet y pudiéramos decir de algunos más a los que incluso fue necesario abrirles los muros retráctiles de los salones contiguos.

En fin, la FIL se fue y nos deja la esperanza que traerá el esplendor de Italia el próximo año.

Mariana Ayón RV y Gerardo Velázquez Carmona

Foto: Juan Manuel Mendoza Briseño

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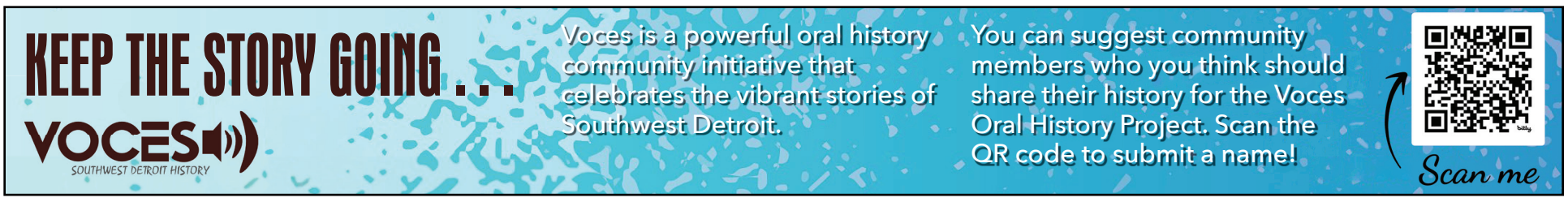
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